

**St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

**1. Attendees:**

Lord Morton

Rev. Christine Downey

Pippa Crichton

Wilma Brown

Gavin Craig

Margaret King

John O'Connor

Steven Haigh

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Ann Donoghue

**3. Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Christine said a prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

**4. Minutes of September 5th Meeting**

There was one omission noted from the minutes, the suggested amount of £500 to be donated to the Green Room, Kirknewton. This has been amended.

There were no further omissions or amendments to the minutes from the September meeting.

The minutes were thereafter approved by the meeting and will now be filed and displayed as normal.

**5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Green Room, Kirknewton donation: Christine has been in recent contact with the Green Room to get an update on their circumstances as their last meeting was a year ago. Last year the discussion was surrounding the few that were facing fuel poverty, now the numbers have increased exponentially.

The Green Room were very appreciative that St Mary's had remembered the previous discussion and that they still wished to help. Upon discussion the amount of £500 was suggested and thereafter agreed by vestry to be donated to help. The Green Room will then be having a meeting to discuss the best way of distributing this to those in need.

Christine mentioned that some members of the congregation also wish to donate to the cause, if people wish to do this they can donate in the normal way to St. Mary's and this will be passed on.

- Steven mentioned an organisation called Fuel Bank Foundation. They are essentially like a food bank but for fuel. They help people all over the country. It was felt that if they haven't done so already the Green Room could contact them to see what aid there is available. Christine will check this with them.
- It was also suggested that those that perhaps do not need the £400 rebate for energy costs could consider donating it either to the Green Room or to the Fuel Bank Foundation.
- Solar panels for the church: Carole was asked regarding her opinion about the possibility of putting solar panels on the church roof. Carole felt that this was not a good idea for mainly two reasons. Firstly it would greatly impact the aesthetics of the building, which is one of the churches major assets and secondly the solar panels would not generate enough electricity needed to heat the church in the winter / low sun months. Carole felt that the better and more economical option would be to put solar panels on the large south facing roof of the hall. Heat pumps were also mentioned as a possibility for the hall at a previous time. These are both options that need to be looked into and discussed with the Trustees. There is a Trustee meeting in November where this will be put forward.
- Cleaner for hall: We find ourselves in a position of looking for a cleaner for the hall again. Unfortunately, the previous person we had lined up is not in a position to take the job. Margaret is however already following up two positive lines of enquires with two cleaning organisations. It is felt that we need to have a cleaner that we can call upon as the demand arises, such as after large events or busy periods. Lord Morton also mentioned that one of the cottage residents is a cleaner so they may be interested, especially as its local. Christine will follow this up with them. Margaret will continue progress this.

## **6. Other Matters from Christine**

- Ecochurch: Christine and Steve have been in discussions on how to make the church and its congregation more eco aware and to have regular reminders of the importance of the roles that we all play. Christine's suggestion was that when she sends out the Prayers of the People, that

they also send out Eco prayers every week with different environmental issues being mentioned.

- Advent Study: Advent study is due to start the week beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Christine would very much like to find a day and time that suits the most people possible. In the past she has tried different times and days. This year a signup sheet will be put up to see what day and time works the best. Please look out for this.
- Succession planning: Vestry would like to thank Gavin for doing this role and for sticking with it longer than necessary. However, Vestry is greatly in need of a new treasurer. Christine has some lines of enquiry to pursue regarding possible candidates. The option is there that this role could be done remotely. Denis could perhaps be prevailed upon to support whoever agrees to take on the role. If anyone is interested or thinks they may know someone who would be interested please let Christine or one of her wardens know.

Equally, if anybody has any interest in being on Vestry in any capacity please let it be known.

- Baptismal Service 25<sup>th</sup> September: Christine wanted to acknowledge that many found the disturbance at the service unsettling and difficult. Thankfully this is a rare occurrence at St Mary's but should anything like this happen again Christine and Ben have discussed and have a protocol in place. If disruption of any form occur, for safety issues Christine will stop, say "Verger Please" and will thereafter wait for Ben and /or the wardens to deal with the situation that has arisen. Equally should Ben, or someone at the back notice something Christine hasn't an agreed signal will be given to Christine to halt proceedings to allow the situation to be dealt with.

Pippa would also like to take this opportunity to apologise for the error with the Service sheets and how they were printed. She appreciates this didn't help in the circumstances and all efforts will be made to ensure this hopefully doesn't happen again.

## **7. Treasurer Report**

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 balance in the General Account was £48,301.76 (£ 48,300.67 previous month) There was £35,969 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £12,332.76 in unrestricted funds.(£12,331.67 previous month).

- £500 charitable donation made to the Green Room, Kirknewton.
- The Autumn Fair raised a total of £607

- Notification was received from the SEC, stipend will increase by 11.1% to £30,600 as of 01/01/2023, monthly pension contributions will increase from £739 to £821.

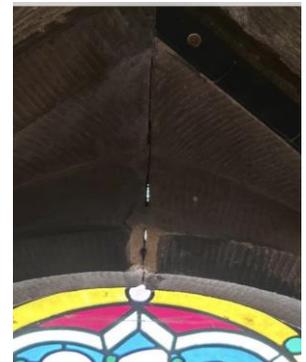
The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £1,265.14 (previous month £939.14).

### **8. Community Engagement Team (CET)**

- Autumn Fair: The Autumn Fair was a great success all round. St Mary's raised a good amount. The stall holders were all contacted after the event to get feedback on how they felt it went and were we could improve things. The vast majority were very happy with how it went, they felt the event and parking was well organised. The overall feeling was when we do the next fair the time should be earlier and for 3 hours not 4. Most stall holders would love to come back.
- Pamphlet delivery: Great news, Ann Donoghue has mentioned that Konnect magazine deliver 1000 leaflets with their magazines for £60. This will be organised soon.
- Bookbug: The first bookbug session was a great success. A total of 20 people (10 Children) attended.
- There will be a CET meeting in a week to discuss various issues .

### **9. Fabric Report**

- Glaze and Save continued with the Secondary Glazing Project during early September. Unfortunately due to unforeseen problems with the condition of the stone masonry around the top circular west window, the glazing panel could not be fitted. The remedial stone masonry repairs were carried out on Friday September 30th and October 1st by Kevin Skey, our regular stonemason.
- The gaps between adjacent stones allowing daylight to be seen from inside of the church have been filled both internally and externally. Glaze and Save are due to return during week commencing 10th October to complete the installation.
- The FCC SCOTTISH ACTION FUND have been informed of the delays by way of an interim report.



- Gutter clearing at the church and at the rectory and rectory cottage were also carried out. An invoice from Kevin Skey will be received shortly.
- The planned PAT testing had to be delayed due to staff absence. It has been rescheduled for Tuesday 4th October, Covid permitting.
- The heating is now functioning properly again. As suspected it was an internet issue which was quite easily resolved.
- John Helliwell has continued to work on the path on the south side of the church and his efforts are hugely appreciated.
- Some of the electrical testing has been done in the church but not all and not the hall. Tradespeople just don't have enough hours in their days at the moment to meet all their obligations.

#### **11. Hall Committee Report:**

- Nothing of note.

#### **12. Lay Rep Report:**

- Nothing to report.

#### **14. AOB**

- Charitable Giving: A new process needs to be implemented to determine St Mary's yearly charitable giving. This will help make things clear to the treasurer to avoid confusion as to when and to whom donations will be made.
- The plan is to have two meetings a year. The first meeting will take place early January. This means that the accounts have been finalised so we know how our finances stand. At this time the percentage to donate will be determined along with the charities to whom we will make the donations. (Suggestions of Charities will be invited from congregation members). The second meeting will be held 6 months after that. This will be to assess how we are doing financially and to see what we have to donate in the following six months.
- Food Bank Donations: Due to Covid the monthly food bank donations could only be done via direct deposit. It was suggested by Vestry that collecting food items should be started up again.
- Ecocongregation: As mentioned, Steve and Christine had a meeting to discuss ideas on how to move us forward as an Ecocongregation. There are a few ideas in the pipeline, including a possible 13 mile walk,

Pilgrimage to Rosslynn Chapel. Were a tour and service could take place, but this will take planning. Steve has offered himself up to do the walk. We would encourage people to embrace Earth Day in the spring and perhaps have a candle light service.

“Who gives a crap” toilet paper could be brought in bulk and sold in the hall in small units, to encourage people to use environmentally friendlier products. If any of the congregation have ideas please let Christine or Steve know.

- Vestry were reminded that their AGM reports are due soon.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022.**

- **Due the darker evenings and winter fast approaching. The meetings will take place via Zoom or at the Rectory until Spring.**